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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/042,395	01/11/2002	Ronald Steiger	713-612	5486

7590 08/03/2004

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EXAMINER

HWU, DAVIS D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3752

DATE MAILED: 08/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	STEIGER, RONALD
Examiner	Art Unit
Davis Hwu	3752

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 June 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 2,4,7 and 9-31 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 2,4,7 and 9-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment and remarks of June 25, 2004 are acknowledged and entered.
2. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 4, 2, 11-18, 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rutz.

Rutz shows a spray coating method comprising the steps of:

- spraying a coating liquid from a spray system through a liquid atomizer in the form of a rotary atomizing element 8 (Column 5, line 16) onto an object to be coated; and
- cooling at least one component of the spray system where the coating liquid may deposit on the component and cure on it, by a fluid, cooled coolant that is fed to the component during the spraying in order that the cooling of the component shall reduce or prevent the adhesion and/or the drying rate and

the layering of the coating liquid on a surface of the component (Column 5, lines 1-5); wherein

- a compressed gas is used as the coolant and the compressed gas is blown onto a surface region of the component to be cooled, where the coating liquid does not stream over the surface region.

6. Claims 9, 7, 10, 19-22, 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rutz.

Rutz shows a spray coating system for spraying liquids comprising:

- a liquid atomizer in the form of a rotary atomizing element 8 (Column 5, line 16) for spraying a coating liquid onto an object to be coated; and
- a cooling unit 6 for cooling a component of the spray system by means of a fluid, cooled coolant during spray coating, where the coating liquid may deposit on the component and cure on it, by a fluid, cooled coolant during spray coating, the cooling of the component reducing or preventing the adhesion and/or the drying rate and the layering of the coating liquid on a surface of the component (Column 5, lines 1-5); wherein
- a compressed gas is used as the coolant; and
- the cooling unit is fitted with a compressed gas discharge to blow the cooled compressed gas onto a surface region of the component to be cooled, where the coating liquid does not stream over the surface region.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rutz.

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The shape of the outlet is an obvious matter of design choice since it would involve only routine skill in the art and the cooling effect would still take place regardless of the shape of the outlet.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Davis Hwu whose telephone number is 703-305-1663.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

9. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Y. Mar can be reached on (703)308-2087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.



Davis Hwu